

to the Broward Community Partnership on the Homeless.

He is also an active participant in South Florida's business community. Mr. Book is a trustee and Council of 100 members of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and was the Director and Special Counsel for former Florida Governor, Bob Graham's Cabinet.

Mr. Book earned a Juris Doctorate at Tulane University and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science at Florida International University. He currently practices in Aventura and Tallahassee. Of all his accomplishments, Ron and his wife, Pat, are most proud of their children, Lauren (20), Samantha (18) and Chase (13).

For his exemplary and inspirational work, reflecting the goals and aspirations of the ADL, I congratulate Ronald L. Book on this distinguished honor.

RECOGNITION OF 2006 WINTER OLYMPIC ATHLETES

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize all of the Olympic athletes who competed last month at the Winter Games in Turin, Italy. The Olympic Games have always sought to bring people together in peace to respect universal moral principles. They give the finest athletes in the world the chance to compete with pride and honor. I am proud that three of my constituents from East Rutherford, New Jersey, in my Ninth Congressional District, competed among the world's best at the 2006 Winter Olympics. Brian Gionta, Scott Gomez, and Brian Rafalski were all members of the Men's United States Olympic Ice Hockey Team.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to especially honor these three young men who have distinguished themselves in the sport of ice hockey, and proudly represented the United States at the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SUNLIGHT RULE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis famously said, "Sunlight is the best disinfectant." In order to shine sunlight on the practices of the House of Representatives, and thus restore public trust and integrity to this institution, I am introducing the sunlight rule, which amends House rules to ensure that Members have adequate time to study a bill before being asked to vote on it. One of the chief causes of increasing public cynicism regarding Congress is the way major pieces of legislation are brought to the floor without Members having an opportunity to read the bills. This is particularly a problem with the Appropriations conference reports, which are often rushed to the floor of the

House in late-night sessions at the end of the year. For example, just this past December, the House voted on the Fiscal Year 2006 Defense Appropriations Conference Report at approximately 4 a.m.—just 4 hours after the report was filed. Yet, the report contained language dealing with avian flu, including controversial language regarding immunity liability for vaccine manufacturers, that was added in the House-Senate conference on the bill. Considering legislation on important issues in this manner is a dereliction of our duty as the people's elected representatives.

My proposed rule requires that no piece of legislation, including conference reports, can be brought before the House of Representatives unless it has been available to Members and staff in both print and electronic version for at least 10 days. My bill also requires that a manager's amendment that makes substantive changes to a bill be available in both printed and electronic forms at least 72 hours before being voted on. While manager's amendments are usually reserved for technical changes, oftentimes manager's amendments contain substantive additions to or subtractions from bills. Members should be made aware of such changes before being asked to vote on a bill.

The sunlight rule provides the people the opportunity to be involved in enforcing the rule by allowing a citizen to move for censure of any House Member who votes for a bill brought to the floor in violation of this act. The sunlight rule can never be waived by the Committee on Rules or House leadership. If an attempt is made to bring a bill to the floor in violation of this rule, any member could raise a point of order requiring the bill to be immediately pulled from the House calendar until it can be brought to the floor in a manner consistent with this rule.

Mr. Speaker, the practice of rushing bills to the floor before individual Members have had a chance to study the bills is one of the major factors contributing to public distrust of Congress. Voting on bills before Members have had time to study them makes a mockery of representative government and cheats the voters who sent us here to make informed decisions on public policy. Adopting the sunlight rule is one of, if not the, most important changes to the House rules this Congress could make to restore public trust in, and help preserve the integrity of, this institution. I hope my colleagues will support this change to the House rules.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS ACT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Innovation and Competitiveness Act.

The Framers of our system of government realized that innovation was essential to the success of the United States. They embodied this strong belief in Article I Section 8 of our Constitution, which lays the framework for our nation's copyright and patent laws. The Framers realized that American innovation was so

important that it merited specific reference and protection in our founding document.

Today, America is the world leader in innovation. However, to ensure that America remains the world leader, we must again take a hard look at our policies to make sure that they still encourage inventors to create and businesses to grow and expand.

Every business and individual must weigh the advantages and the hurdles when making the decisions about whether to bring an idea to the market, expand services to other geographical areas and the like. In addition to market factors, unfortunately, today there are additional hurdles to innovation and growth—excessive litigation, as well as taxation, red tape and regulation imposed by governments.

The Innovation and Competitiveness Act is a comprehensive piece of legislation to get Congress engaged in the business of promoting innovation in America by creating additional incentives for private individuals and businesses to create and rollout new products and services so that America will remain the world leader in innovation. Government sometimes is the problem—not the answer to the problem—so the Innovation and Competitiveness Act also addresses government-imposed hurdles to innovation by clearing the way for inventors and businesses to do what they do best—create and compete.

Specifically, this legislation will promote research and development by permanently extending the R&D tax credit. Companies know best how to spend their money on research and development, not government bureaucracies.

In addition, excessive red tape and confusing rules regarding tax liability are currently stifling businesses from moving across State lines. Increasingly, States are taxing businesses outside their borders for the right to do business within the State even when those out-of-State businesses have minimal contacts with the taxing jurisdictions. Given this environment, some businesses have made the decision that it is not worth expanding to other jurisdictions because of the ambiguity about when they must pay these taxes and the fear of aggressive taxation and the resulting litigation and compliance costs. The Innovation and Competitiveness Act contains provisions to set clear, bright line rules for when out-of-State businesses would be obliged to pay taxes to a jurisdiction. This bill creates a physical presence test such that States could only collect business activity taxes from businesses with employees or property in the taxing State. This will create the clarity necessary for businesses to grow beyond State lines, and offer new and exciting products and services to consumers.

In addition, excessive litigation hampers investment and innovation. With that in mind, this legislation cracks down on frivolous lawsuits by strengthening sanctions against attorneys who file truly frivolous actions.

Furthermore, rising health care costs are one of the most difficult challenges facing individuals, businesses and manufacturing today. The Innovation and Competitiveness Act contains provisions that will allow individuals to purchase health insurance that best suits their needs and budgets, while also promoting competition in health care. In addition, our bill encourages the use of health information technology, which will improve health quality and

reduce errors by leveraging cutting edge technology to make medical records available almost instantaneously to doctors when they are needed so that they can best treat patients. Technology can help reduce paperwork and administrative burdens and thus help doctors provide the best and fastest care possible to their patients.

Finally, as we have heard, by 2010, more than 90 percent of all scientists and engineers could be living in Asia. This is a major challenge to our competitive leadership, but America must keep pace. To address this issue, the Innovation and Competitiveness Act includes provisions that will provide incentives for teachers to specialize in math, science, and other technical fields—and to remain in the classroom to educate our youth in these fields. In addition, this legislation provides incentives for students to receive degrees in technical fields with financial aid and scholarships.

The Innovation and Competitiveness Act will get Congress into the business of protecting America's place as the world leader in innovation and competitiveness, and I urge the Members of the House to support the initiatives in this important legislation.

HONORING THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR CANCER SURVIVORSHIP ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship based in Silver Spring, Maryland on its 20th anniversary.

For the past two decades, NCCS has worked tirelessly to advocate for quality cancer care for all Americans and to empower cancer survivors. By stressing its commitment to evidence-based advocacy, NCCS has worked with policy makers to evaluate and recommend changes in how the nation researches, regulates, finances and delivers quality cancer care.

In addition, NCCS has provided cancer survivors and their loved ones access to credible and accurate information on many important survivorship issues, especially the critical role of advocating for oneself.

I ask that all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in honoring the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, whose leadership has provided an invaluable service to this country's more than ten million cancer survivors and the millions more affected by this devastating disease. I wish them all best in the future.

RECOGNIZING ROSS HAYNES JR. FOR HIS ENDLESS COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Ross Haynes Jr., from Fort Worth, Texas, in the heart of the 26th Congressional

District of Texas, for his dedicated service to the community.

Ross Haynes Jr. makes helping his community a high priority in his life. He has dedicated time to assisting others in the community, specifically, its youth. From sports to education on life, Ross Haynes Jr. has made a difference in our lives.

From his own humble beginnings, Mr. Haynes has amassed great wealth in the form of friendship and encouragement in which he has inspired throughout his community. He has been involved with the lives of a great deal of Fort Worth's underprivileged youths through the Fort Worth Boys & Girls Club. Mr. Haynes effortlessly educates kids about the positive things to aspire for in life.

In addition, he has fulfilled his dream to open his own business along with his wife, Delessa. This alone is a phenomenal achievement for one to accomplish. Mr. Haynes serves as a most honorable role model for many by continuing to strive for one's own personal goal.

I am proud to represent Ross Haynes Jr.—a man who has given so much back to his community. Mr. Haynes's advice, council and support to the community, whether directly or indirectly, over the years, are certainly something for which to be thankful. I am grateful to represent such a wonderful citizen like Mr. Haynes.

TRIBUTE TO THE CRISIS SHELTER OF LAWRENCE COUNTY

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate The Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County on the 25th anniversary of its founding.

In September of 1981 the Lawrence County Crisis Shelter opened its doors to women and children who have suffered domestic abuse. Over the past 25 years the Shelter has grown to provide free services to men, women and children that are victims/survivors of sexual assault and domestic abuse.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Crisis Shelter. To kick off the celebration, the shelter will be holding its annual auction, which is scheduled to be held at the Scottish Rite Cathedral on Saturday, February 25th at 6 p.m. The funds raised at the auction help support many services offered by the shelter, including the 24-hour hotline, prevention education in schools, intervention training, and the emergency shelter.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the 25th anniversary of The Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a principled organization as The Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County.

HONORING THE SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDEN UPON ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden board of trustees, staff and volunteers as they celebrate the 80th anniversary of the garden. The botanic garden provides many different services to the Santa Barbara community, including conservation, education and research.

As an active member of the Center for Plant Conservation, the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden is the only organization actively developing and maintaining a conservation collection of rare and endangered species in the central coast region. Through cooperation with private and public resource management agencies, seeds and living plants are collected in the wild to represent genetic and geographic variation. These conservation efforts are critical to ensuring that the areas of vast beauty and great significance are preserved so that our future generations may enjoy and learn from them.

The Botanic Garden has a comprehensive education program that includes programs for school groups, various certificate programs and excursions to such regions as Anacapa Island and Lake Cachuma. Their education program aims to increase our understanding of the role of plants in the natural world. Currently, the Botanic Garden co-sponsors programs with the Los Padres National Forest, University of California Cooperative Extension and the Gevirtz Research Center in the Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Santa Barbara. They also have a relationship with our local schools that ensures that our children learn the importance of preserving our natural treasures and allows teachers an opportunity to help students learn in an outdoor classroom environment.

Research at the Botanic Garden began in the late 1920s and has continued to be innovative and to contribute to our understanding of the natural world. Beginning in the 1960s, Dr. Ralph Philbrick (Garden Director from 1974 to 1987) expanded the Garden's floristic research of the Channel Islands. For over 40 years, Garden surveys and inventories have significantly expanded our knowledge of these remarkable offshore terrains. As a result, the Garden's herbarium includes over 30,000 specimens of the Channel Islands' vascular plants and lichens, which are consulted by researchers throughout the world. This research on the Channel Islands is of particular importance because of its status as a National Park which possesses many native plants and animals.

I am so pleased to be able to recognize all of the hard work of the trustees, staff and volunteers as a part of this 80th Anniversary celebration. I am privileged to work and live in a community that is so physically beautiful and blessed with so many dedicated individuals who work tirelessly to maintain the many things that make this area so special. Congratulations and happy anniversary!